

Enquiry into CRB Scam

1564. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the inquiry into the CRB Capital Markets Ltd. is progressing satisfactorily;
- (b) if so, the time by which the report likely to be available with the Government;
- (c) whether monitoring of inquiry is being done; and
- (d) if so, the agency/agencies thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) The main activities of CRB Capital Markets Ltd. (CRBCML) were hire purchase, leasing finance and merchant banking. A complaint was received in December, 1996 by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from Tourism Finance Corporation of India Ltd. regarding default of repayment of deposits by CRB Capital Markets Ltd. Global Trust Bank Ltd. has also reported to RBI in March, 1997 about development of Letter Credit opened by a group Company. Further, CRBCML fraudulently overdraw its accounts with the State Bank of India, Mumbai Main Branch (MMB) for payment of interest warrants, deposit refunds and brokerage warrants by an amount of over Rs. 58 crores. Keeping in view the findings of the inspection carried out by RBI between November, 1996 to January, 1997 and the subsequent developments, especially relating to the SBI, the RBI issued prohibitory orders in April, 1997 under section 45MB(1) & (2) directing the company not to accept any further deposits and not to alienate any assets without prior permission of RBI. RBI filed a winding up petition in the Delhi High Court under section 45 MC of the RBI Act on 21.5.1997. A provisional Liquidator has been appointed by Delhi High Court. The Liquidator has initiated action to crystallize the assets and liabilities of the company.

In view of these developments, the Government has asked the regulators, i.e. RBI and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to undertake a thorough internal review of the regulatory actions in regard to these companies to see if there have been any lapses in application of regulations to CRB group of companies or in responding to warning signals, so that these deficiencies can be corrected. Government has also advised the State Bank of India to ascertain whether there was any internal failure to act on early warning signals emanating from the defaults in the payment arrangements with CRB Capital Markets Ltd. At the operative level an inter-departmental group comprising representatives of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), RBI, SEBI, and the State Government has been constituted to ensure concerted action. RBI has also issued detailed instructions to banks prescribing the procedural safeguards to be taken into account while providing "at par" payment facilities to companies."

In so far as the criminal investigation and other legal proceedings are concerned, it is not possible at this juncture to fix any definite time frame for their completion.

Facilities Provided to Handicapped Persons

1565. DR. RAM VILAS VEDANTI :
SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the facilities being provided to handicapped employees in various departments under his Ministry; and
- (b) the number of handicapped youths appointed under Ministry during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of Silk

1566. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the target fixed for production of silk in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan;
- (b) the quantum of silk produced during the above period;
- (c) whether the Government have taken any concrete steps to boost the production of silk; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):
(a) A target to produce 21,400 tonnes of raw silk per annum was fixed for VIIIth Plan Period.

(b) The production of raw silk during the 1996-97 was 14,093 tonnes (provisional).

(c) and (d) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Sericulture Departments, the Central Silk Boards (CSB) is implementing a number of schemes/projects/programmes for promoting development of all the four types of silk. These include schemes for extension of R&D, training, infrastructural & extension support to the sector through network of CSB's units & implementation of certain developmental/incentive financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericultural practices for production of quality silk. Besides, the Central Silk Board has also taken up sericulture projects like World Bank assisted National Sericulture Project (covering 17 States), Action Plan for seven States of North-Eastern Region etc. in association/collaboration with the States.

Purchase Centres of JCI

1567. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether inspite of persistent requests from the Members of Parliament for the last number of years, the jute

purchase Centres have not so far been opened by Jute Corporation of India in North Bengal areas of West Bengal, Assam and Meghalaya;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the target date by which these are likely to be opened in various areas of above states; and

(c) The remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government to save the jute growers from the clutches of middle-men, who purchase the jute at a very cheaper rate and make money by sell the same to Jute Corporation's Purchase Centres at higher rate?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Jute purchase centres of the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) have already started procurement under Price Support Operations in North Bengal and Assam from 25.7.1997. As regard Meghalaya, manpower and storage space are in total readiness, and necessary funds have also been provided for Price Support Operations. Procurement in Meghalaya will start on arrival of raw jute in the market.

(c) The Government have released requisite funds of JCI to undertake Price Support Operations. JCI have prepared action plan to enter the market to purchase jute directly from the growers.

Azad Hind Bank, Calcutta

1568. SHRI RAJA RANGAPPA NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the deposits of Azad Hind Bank, Burma has transferred their deposits to Azad Hind Bank, Calcutta;

(b) whether the Azad Hind Bank, Calcutta Branch has been merged with Imperial Bank of India (now State Bank of India);

(c) the total amount deposited and transferred to Azad Hind Bank, Calcutta Branch;

(d) the name of the persons to whom the balance amount yet to be paid; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government for payment of their amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that there are no deposits of cash, jewellery and ornaments with RBI, Mumbai in the name of erstwhile National Bank of Azad Hind, Rangoon. RBI have further reported that their enquiries with the State Bank of India have been revealed that there is no record available with them regarding the merger of Azad Hind Bank with the Imperial Bank.

Conference held by Election Commission

1569. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :

SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI B.K. GADHVI :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Election Commission held recently a Conference of various political parties on the revision of Electoral Rolls and Voter Identity Cards;

(b) if so, the decisions arrived at the Conference; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c) According to information made available by the Election Commission of India, a meeting with various political parties was held to ascertain their views on various aspects of electoral process to enable the Commission to formulate proposals in this regard. The meeting, inter alia, discussed the issues of revision of electoral rolls and voter identity cards. No formal decisions were taken at the meeting. The Commission has since decided to undertake summary revision of electoral rolls in all the States/Union territories (except Assam) with reference to 1.1.1998 as the qualifying date. In Assam, intensive revision of electoral rolls is in progress.

[Translation]

Sale of Soft Coke

1570. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have issued directives to sell the soft coke allotted to Government of Bihar through public distribution system;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) whether the utility certificate regarding the soft coke supplied to Bihar has been received; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d) As per decision taken by the Government the distribution of soft coke has now been decontrolled and consequently Ministry of Coal is not making State-wise allocation any longer.

[English]

Vacant Posts of SC/ST/OBCs in Various Banks

1571. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: